

Seminar on Nethravathi Diversion, Gas Pipe Line and Pushpagiri Vanyadhama at Sacred Heart College, Mandantyar

On 17-3-2012 Capuchin Krishik Seva Kendra®, Vimukti and Sacred Heart College Madantyar jointly organized a “Vichara Sumkirana in the college auditorium on the various issues such as “Nethravathi Diversion, Pushpagiri vanyadhama and Gas pipeline. The Principal Dr. Robert Jose, Fr. Vinod Mascarenhas, Speakers Mr. Dinesh Holla Artist, Parisara Premi, Karavali Chitrakala Chavadi and Mr. Sampath Kumar Shetty, President of Cooperative Society, Bantwal and also Director of APMC were present. Soon after the colorful inauguration the speakers of the day took over the sessions, Mr. Dinesh Holla an activist who has been working since 11 years for the conservation of wild life and Western Ghats, presented his scientific study that he made with regard to the wild life and Western Ghats. He said in his talk that Nethravathi River comes emerges due to the submerging of 9 upanadis and 42 small tributaries. So its mere madness to talk about diversion of Nethravathi River. We should join hands in raising our powerful voice against the dreadful projects which are the most impractical. The private companies and the Governments are often allured because it involves lot of money and corruption. No human being can go against the nature one can only preserve it and improve it and no way can one destroy it for s/he selfish gain. Further he said it's most unreasonable to plan and divert the rivers. The studies/ research have shown that one cannot divert the rivers and direct to wherever one wants.

Fr. Vinod Mascarenhas shared his views saying that Western Ghats has very unique and pivotal place in the coastal region. While it generates monsoon it also helps to sink the water into the ground and thus avoids floods. It also acts as strong protection wall against the natural calamities like cyclone and storm. He also called upon the audience to stand as solid as Western Ghats against the most inhuman projects of the private companies and Government. He also sensitized and motivated the people to be always watchful and also fulfill the responsibilities as a citizen of a democratic country. He appealed the gathering to overcome selfish/narrow ideas like caste system and stand united to fight against these projects.

Then Mr. Sampath Kumar presented his findings with regard to another project i.e., Gas pipeline. He gave his example how he along with his villagers driven out the Reliance company officers who without the permission of Panchayat entered their village to survey the private properties. They were never allowed to survey the land but asked them to come to the Panchayat for the meeting where they were told not to interfere with lives of the rural poor people. Then there was Nruthya Rupaka presented by the Vimukti Spanda Youth club, Kalle. It was very much appreciated by the gathering. It depicted the role and responsibilities of every citizen and the impacts of these dreadful projects. Soon after the Rupaka there was questionnaire hour where the gathering clarified their doubts and resolved to fight against these Projects. Dr. Robert Jose presented concluding remarks by requesting all presented audience to

fight boldly against these projects and never to give up attitude, Professor Joseph coordinated the Programme and Professor Alex Sequeira, Director of Students Association, Sacred Heart College Mandanthyar gave the vote of thanks.



